

NSG-229US

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph [0001] with the following rewritten paragraph [0001]:

[0001] This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/762,520, filed February 8, 2001, ^{now U.S. Patent 6,717,162} which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/493,043, filed September 24, 1996, ¹⁹⁹⁸ now U.S. Letters Patent No. 6,180,960, issued January 30, 2001.